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YOUNG KING COMICS

いちごの学校

きづきあきら+サトウナンキ

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きづきあきら
サトウナンキ

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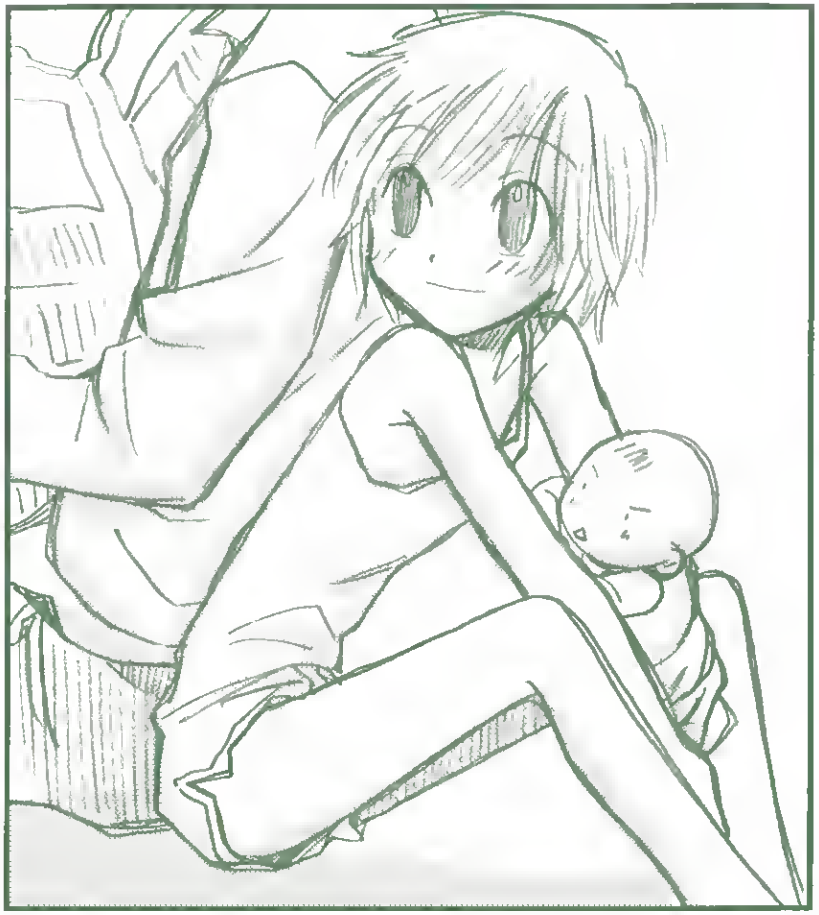
プロフィール

きづきあきら(奥)
サトウナンキ(手前)

コミ型萌で作家中。
ちんだんだど。
さうにかこうにかやっていきます。



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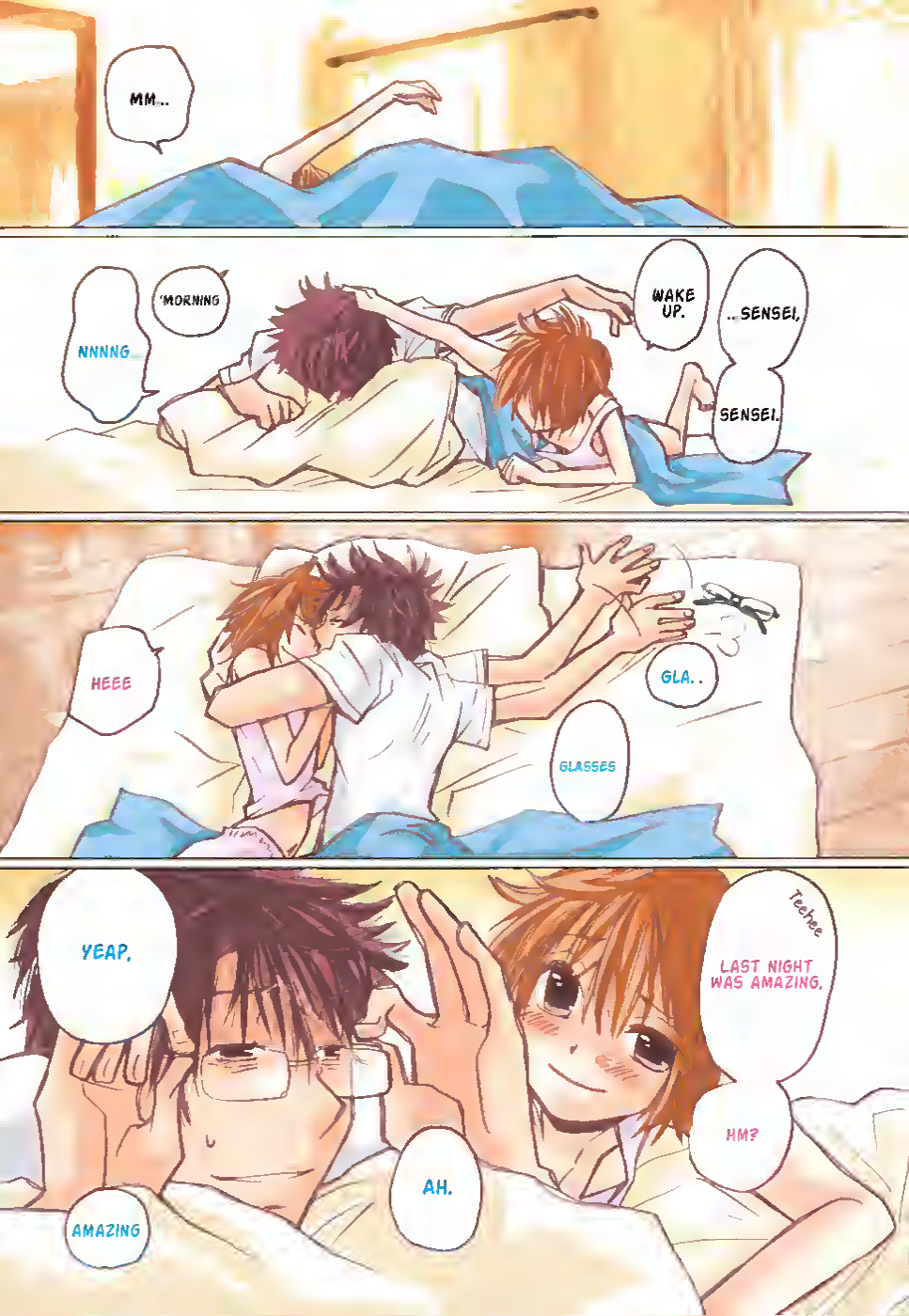
MM..
NNNNG...
'MORNING
WAKE UP.
..SENSEI,
SENSEI.
HEEE
GLA..
GLASSES
YEAP.
AMAZING
AH.
HM?
LAST NIGHT WAS AMAZING.
Tehee

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LESSON:1

きづきあきら+サトウナンキ

KURUMI, YOU'VE ALSO HELD UP QUITE WELL.
IT'S BEEN FLAT-OUT FOUR MONTHS SINCE I'VE GOTTEN A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, BUT..
HOW LONG WILL THIS CONTINUE... THIS HELLISH LATE-NIGHT SIREN...
WHEN THEY SAY A "BABY'S CRY," IS THIS WHAT IT IS?
SERIOUSLY
YOU SAY "USERS' MANUAL"
LIKE SHE'S SOME KIND OF MACHINE.
Not for newborns, it says. Feminine, huh.
AND THIS SO CALLED "BABY'S CRY" WILL LAST UNTIL ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS!
YEAP!
ACCORDING TO THE USERS' MANUAL, UNTIL ABOUT FIVE MONTHS, SLEEP IS UNPREDICTABLE..
UNREQUITED LOVE, HUH
THIS...
STUBBORN BRAT...
SFX: WA AH!
OW! OW-OW!
OKAY, OKAY!
I'M YOUR FRIEND, AOI-CHAN!
OUCH!

SENSEI,
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR EGGS?
SUNNY SIDE UP?
SCRAMBLED?
GIMME THE USUAL
WHEN I ASK FOR
SUNNY SIDE UP,
THEY TURN INTO SCRAMBLED EGGS ANYWAY
SEX HUSTLE
HAHAHA!
SEX WHAT?
AH!!
SORRY TO DIS-APPOINT YOU!!
Tada!
AO,
LOOK!
THE FIRST SUNNY SIDE UP EGG
COOKED BY YOUR MOM SINCE YOU WERE BORN!
GOOD JOB, KURUMI—!
click
Fuu
HOW'D I DO?
CARE TO RECONSIDER YOUR PREVIOUS STATEMENT?

TONIGHT...
HEH
I'LL COOK...
HAMBURGER!
WHAT?!
AMAZING
FOR THE FIRST TIME WE GOT MARRIED...
A MENU THAT DOESN'T
STEW, INCLUDE CURRY,
OR NIKUJAGA (WHICH ARE IN FACT ALL VARIANTS OF THE SAME MEAL)
Ah? But the ingredients are the same?
EN-NEN!
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR TODAY
SINCE WE GOT MARRIED, SO...
I WANT TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER.
IS THAT TRUE?
ALREADY...

TONS OF HAMBURGER!
YOU'LL SEE!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO GET HOME!
COOKED GROUND BEEF! ♡
WELL...
I'M OFF.
OKAY, OKAY!
TAKE CARE, OKAY!
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, COME HOME QUICKLY, SENSEI
WON'T YOU STOP
STOP CALLING ME SENSEI SOON?
KURUMI
6

YEAH..
UH-HUH.
..BUT, TO ME, SENSEI, YOU'RE STILL "OOMIYA-SENSEI," YOU KNOW...
IS THAT WRONG?
IS THAT SO?
WELL, IT'S FINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STRESS OUT OVER IT.
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR
SINCE WE GOT MARRIED MEANS
I BECAME AN "UNEMPLOYED TEACHER"
A YEAR AGO...?
I LOVE YOU.
I'LL GO
LOVE YOU TOO
..GO TO WORK.
MEH,
I DON'T WANT TO..
SHH!

SFX: BUMP
I'M NOT USED TO THE MORNING COMMUTE RUSH HOUR.
IF THIS WERE TO JUST DISAPPEAR, WOULDN'T DEPRESSION AND SLACKERS ALSO SUFFICIENTLY DIMINISH?
UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO RIDE ON THE SAME TRAIN!
Annoying!
I SHARE IN THE SYMPA-THIES, BUT YOU BRATS ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM!
THOSE UNI-FORMS
MIDORIYAMA HIGH SCHOOL?
I WONDER IF THEY'RE THE SAME AGE AS KURUMI.

ONE YEAR AGO
I, OOMIYA ICHIGO, WAS A TEACHER
KURUMI WAS ALSO JUST A NORMAL
FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
SENSEI!
OOMIYA -SENSEI!
ITABASHI KURUMI, I-C!
YOUR QUES-TION?
IT'S NOT A QUES-TION!
IT'S OKAY, KURUMI!
THEN, DON'T BOTHER ME
DID YOU ACTUALLY THROW AWAY THE LETTER MIBASHI-SAN SENT YOU UNOPENED?!
IF YOU TELL ME NOW IT WAS BY MISTAKE, I'LL FORGIVE YOU. AT LEAST READ IT...
PLEASE READ IT, FOR MIBASHI-SAN!
TCH

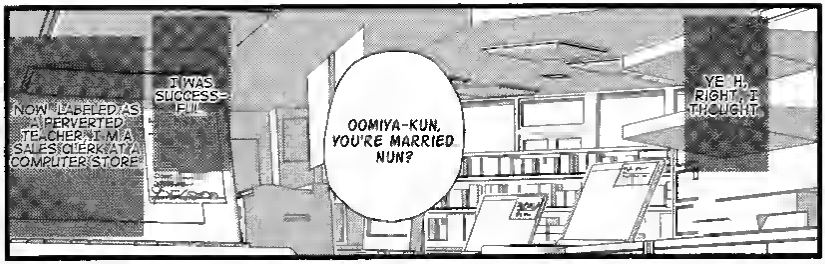
SFX SIGH
SENSEI!!
HEY, IT'S OKAY NOW!
WAI—
DON'T IGNORE ME!
SFX SHOCK
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, KURUMI!
WHA—
ME?!
SO CRUEL..
IDIOT..
ERI-CHAN..
I DID IT BECAUSE YOU WERE COMPLAINING!
Jeez!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO BULL-HEADED!!
SFX WAAH!
HOW FOOLISH.
DAMN KIDS
DON'T THEY KNOW I COULD LOSE MY JOB?
RE SCREWING ROUND HAVING FUN AND WASTING THEIR TIME BY POKIN FUN AT THE NEW TEACHER
THOSE GIRLS

I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED IT.
SENSEI, THE NEXT LESSON PLAN
I WAS FULL OF MYSELF.
AROUND THAT TIME...
SENSEI!
YES
OOMIYA-KUN IS TRUSTWORTHY, ISN'T HE.
IT'S MY PLEASURE.
SENSEI, I HAVE A QUESTION!
WHAT IS IT?
MY TEACHING ABILITY WAS THE BEST IN THE SCHOOL AND I WAS POPULAR.
"OOMIYA'S NATIONAL CURRENT STATE CLASS IS INTERESTING."
HAVING BEEN A TEACHER FOR THREE YEARS, I WAS FULL OF CONFIDENCE.
MY CLASSES WERE PRECISE AND NOT POINTLESS.
SFX: TIK TIK TIK
AT LEAST,
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
天職
TEXT ON BOARD: VOCATION

SFX: RUMBLE, RUMBLE, RUMBLE, PLINK!
IT'S RAINING, HUH.
SFX: PLINK PLINK
TOMBOY-LOOKING GIRL...
THAT UN-ATTRACT-TIVE,

…
IT'S RAINING,
YOU'D BETTER GO HOME QUICKLY.
……
……
Ha Ha Ha
IT'S UNUSUAL,
YOU BEING HERE AT THIS TIME OF DAY READING A BOOK IN THE CLASSROOM
Ha ha
WHAT'RE YOU READING?
Ugh
slap

CAN AT LEAST REPLY, YOU KNOW..
.....
YOU...
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?
SHE IS SOOO NOT CUTE!
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT SCHOOL-RELATED THINGS, CAN'T THEY?
PLEASE DON'T ASK ME ABOUT THINGS THAT AREN'T CLASS-RELATED.
Heh.
THIS HAS NO RELATION TO CLASS
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF RETALIATION?
WHAT AN IMMATURE GIRL.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF GIRLS WHO TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE HAVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS


NOW LABELED AS A PERVERTED TEACHER, I'M A SALESCLERK AT A COMPUTER STORE.
I WAS SUCCESS-FUL.
OOMIYA-KUN, YOU'RE MARRIED NUN?
YE H, RIGHT, I THOUGHT.

LATELY,
I'VE BEEN FEELING MORE PRESSURED TO GET MARRIED.
NONESTLY, IT ANNOYS ME.
Heh
YOU'RE YOUNGER TNAN ME. AMAMING HUH
OUT OF STOCK
YEAN,
I NAVE A KID, TOO

REGRET?
I DO, I DO.
I HAVE LRE DY BEEN GREATLY REGRETTING IT.

DOESN'T IT SORT OF FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ACCEPTING DEFEAT?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT WOMEN BUT MEN
DO YOU REGRET IT?
WNAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT IT?

SFX STOMP
WELCOME HOOOOOME!
KURUMI!
HOW'S THE HAMBURGER...
HM?
AA-
I'M HOME!
Haa.
I'M EXHAUSTED
BATHROOM!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WATCH AO FOR ME!
UH-
I'M HOME!
YOU'RE STILL UP, I SEE.
SFX: PAK
AH...
AO!

AO ALREADY FELL ASLEEP
ARE YOU ILL?
HEY!
KURUMI
ARE YOU OKAY?
UUHH
UH..
UH-
WHA-
WHAT'S WRONG?!
HUH?
TOILET PAPER
THERE'S NO...
THERE'S.
PLEASE LEAVE IT
OUTSIDE THE DOOR..
THANKS..

WHOOSH
JUST KIDDING!
IT'S FINE WE'RE MARRIED, NO NEED TO BE EMBARRASSED!
I BET YOUR ARM COULDN'T REACH IT.
SO, HERE!
CLICK
I—
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
IDIOT!
SFX: KYAAAAH!?
SFX: SLAM!!!
I'M SO UPSET!!
YOU OLD MAN!!
EH!
EEEEHH?

SFX UH
SFX SNIFF
SO,
YOU TRIED SOME OF THE UNDER-COOKED HAMBURGER MEAT,
AND IT HURT YOUR TUMMY?
SO SHE TRIED TO USE SELF-CONTROL NOT TO LEAVE AO UNATTENDED HUH
SO WHAT?
IT'S FINE!
DON'T BE EMBA-RRASSED!
Actually it's really admirable
THAT'S NOT IT!!
I'M EMBA-RRASSED BECAUSE OF YOU!!
SFX: B. M!!
BECAUSE
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ADULT...
YOU MIGHT THINK THINGS LIKE THIS ARE NOT CONCERNING BUT,
FOR ME, IT'S DIFFERENT!
YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG!!
WE'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP. I WAS PRESENT FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR CHILD, REMEMBER!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT!
Are you really that stupid?!
Waaah!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN THAT, AND SAYING "I LOVE YOU"
I DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T KNOW, SENSEI
SENSEI...
YOU—
YOU SAID THAT YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT?
TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU
I'VE JUST STARTED...
BUT I...
I KNOW THAT...
IF YOU AND AO WEREN'T WITH ME,
I THINK I WOULD DIE!
IS THAT LOVE?
IS THAT OKAY?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW!
BUT...
BECAUSE
YOU PRESSURED ME,
BECAUSE OF AO...
WE HAD TO GET MARRIED, RIGHT?

I HAVE A QUESTION.
SENSEI
REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
IS HUMAN LIFE
PLEASE TELL ME

ON THE LAST ETHICS AND CIVICS TEST.
THERE WAS AN EXCERPT FROM A STORY AND A QUESTION.
"WRITE WHAT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE STORY YOU JUST READ." THAT WAS ALL THAT WAS WRITTEN ON TEST THAT WAS HANDED OUT.
THE STORY TOLD ABOUT A MAN WHO, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, COMMITTED A DEED THAT WENT AGAINST MORAL PRINCIPLES,
AND WAS JUDGED FOR THAT DEED.
IT'S FROM "HIKAIGOKE"...
BY TAKEDA TAIJUN?
THAT'S AN UNEXPECTED QUESTION.
AND HAS NO RELATION TO CLASS
IT'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ANSWER YOU. BUT
I THINK HUMAN LIFE IS IMPORTANT
THAT'S YOUR ANSWER HUH.

HEH.
AS WOULD BE EXPECTED OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE COUNTRY TEACHER
BUT, YOUR ANSWER...
DOESN'T IMPRESS ME
IT WAS A FRIGHTENING STORY
I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD
THAT DAY YOU TALKED TO ME, I WAS READING THAT BOOK
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIE
WHEN WILL I DIE. HOW WILL I DIE?
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT TERRIFIES ME
BUT SHOULD WE...
FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING OUR LIVES,
GO TO THE EXTREME OF SACRIFICING OTHERS AND GOING AGAINST MORALS?
MAYBE IT'S NOT...
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING?

ETHICS AND CIVICS..
MORITA -SENSEI RIGHT?
ONCE AGAIN...
A PECULIAR TEST...
WHAT DID YOU ANSWER?
I WROTE "I DON'T KNOW."
FILLING UP BOTH SIDES OF THE TEST PAPER WITH SMALL WRITING
I GOT A REALLY GOOD SCORE, BUT...
EVEN AFTER THE TEST, I KEPT THINKING ABOUT IT...
THEN, I CAME UP WITH A BRIEF ANSWER.
SENSEI
WHEN YOU'D BE OKAY WITH DYING?
IS THERE A TIME...

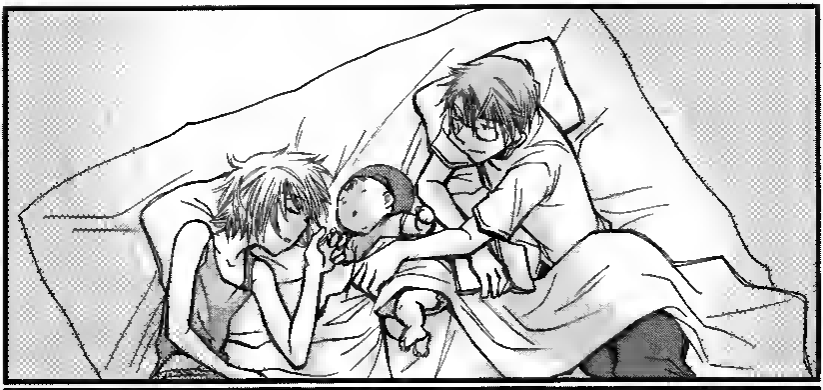
RIGHT NOW...
I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT WANT TO DIE
BUT, I DON'T HAVE A GOOD REASON WHY.
...BECAUSE I'M SCARED OF DEATH?
IF I HAD A LOVER OR SOMEONE I LIKED...
I WOULDN'T WANT THAT PERSON TO DIE EITHER
BUT THAT WOULD STEM FROM GREED.
BUT, SENSEI.
WHAT IF I HAD A CHILD?
FOR THE SAKE OF MY CHILD...
I WOULD PROBABLY BE FINE WITH GIVING UP SOMETHING LIKE MY OWN LIFE

EVEN NOW, I REGRET...
LOOKING OEEPLY INTO THOSE SPARKLING, ANIMALISTIC EYES.
I HAO A PREMONITION THAT I WOULO NOT BE ABLE TO TURN BACK AFTER THAT.
ANO YET, IN THE ENO...
I ENOEO UP RUINING KURUMI'S FUTURE.

HAHA.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A DREADFUL WOMAN,
WHO WAS WEIGHING OUT THE OPTIONS OF LIFE AND SUCH
SO WHAT'S ALL THIS?!

THE ME WHO GOT MARRIED
AND BECAME A FA-THER
HAS BECOME A COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON

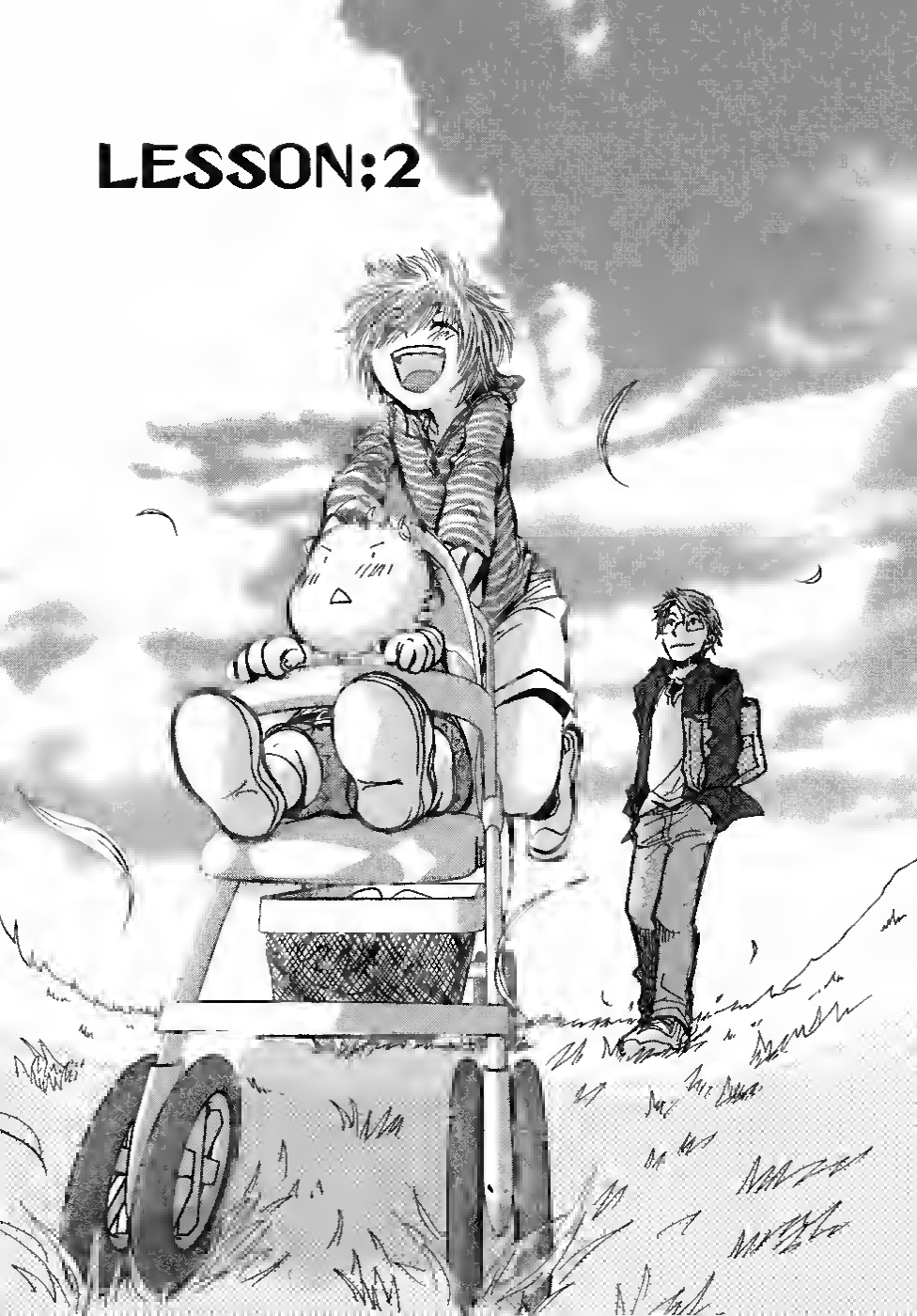
IS LIKE TRAVELING IN AN UNKNOWN LAND
ND COMMUNI-CATING IN A NEW LANGUAGE WITH A LIVING BEING THAT CANNOT YET SPEAK
MY VALUES, MORALS, VIEW ON LIFE, AND CULTURE HAVE ALL ENTIRELY CHANGED
THE WORLD THAT I LIVE IN
AND ALTHOUGH ALL OF THIS MAKES ME ANXIOUS, IT'S ALSO ENGAGING AND FUN
AND AS FAR AS BOREDOM GOES... I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT



MY OWN LIFE NO LONGER EXISTS PURELY FOR MYSELF.
AO...
YOU'VE REALLY GOT A HOLD ON ME
FOR NOW...
THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

Lesson:1/END

LESSON:2



Drrrip
AO-CHAAAN!
C'MERE!
SHE'S SOOOO CUTE!
THANKS!
IT'S OKAY, DON'T OVERDO IT!
HAHA! AHA, Ahahahaha!
Kyaa! DROOL!!
PUT ON CLOTHES THAT I DON'T MIND GETTING DIRTY BEFORE COMING OVER!
IT'S OKAAAY!
Aha!
AO'S FILTH MIGHT MAKE A STAIN.
YEAH, MIBASHI.
Even so
Ao-chan

EH?
WHAT DO YOU..
:
..AH!
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT, I WONDER HOW WE COULD.
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO BRING HER
TO THE CULTURE FESTIVAL?
Weeeaa
I'M SURE EVERYONE WOULD BE HAPPY YOU DID!
HAHA
Ahaha
EVERYONE'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN!
NOBODY WILL MIND!
IT'S FINE!
LISTEN TO THIS!!
THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER WHO CAME AFTER OOMIYA-SENSEI IS THE WORST!

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE THAT TEST COMING UP, I'LL COME HERE AND RAMBLE AND ASK WHAT I SHOULD DO!
EVERYONE'S REALIZED OOMIYA-SENSEI'S TRUE WORTH!
AFTER THAT, I'LL BE FORCED TO START THINKING ABOUT TESTS, WON'T I?
GOING TO SCHOOL IS SO BORING.
IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING! AFTER THE CULTURE FESTIVAL AND OTHER EVENTS AND STUFF...
YOUR HUSBAND'S SWEET..
YOUR BABY'S CUTE..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, OR TAKE TESTS, OR STUDY FOR EXAMS ANYMORE..
IT MUST BE NICE, HUH.
IT'S GREAT, HUH, KURUMI...

AHH, I WANT TO GET MARRIED, TOO!
HEY, MIBASHI!
ERI-CHAN!
HOW IS EVERY-BODY?
AH, THEY'RE GOOD, THEY'RE GOOD!
MITA, YUN-CHAN, AND MOJI-KUH..
SO, LISTEN TO THIS...!
MITA ASKED A GIRL FROM CLASS A OUT AND GOT RE-JECTED
AGAIN?!
UH-HUH, WHAT A CON-FESSION, HUH!
.....
Hmm
GIVE...
I SEPARATED OUT THE SNACKS I GAVE TO AO, SO IT'S OKAY IF YOU WANT TO EAT THE ONES THAT ARE LEFT!
AH!
I DON'T MEAN SNACKS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ALWAYS GIVE SO MUCH.

KURUMI'S STUBBORNNESS

IT WILL NEVER CHANGE HUH..

MESSING WITH ME...
AGAIN?!
SHIT
EVER SINCE THEN

SFX:CHATTER
SCRATCHED YOUR CAR?
OHH
YES,
FOR THE THIRD TIME
MY SUMMER BONUS POOF GONE
It went all the way into the metal
MY, THAT'S EXTREMELY UNFORTUHATE!
YOU CAH HAVE AN EXCUSE TO BE ABLE TO GO OUT AND DRINK
HOWEVER, THANKS TO YOU GOING TO GET YOUR CAR REPAIRED
YOU KHOW EVEH BAUDELAIRE SAYS
"BECAUSE HARD WORK FULFILLS YOU DAY TO DAY ALCOHOL MAKES SUNDAYS JOYOUS"
UGH!
YOU SURE ARE A POSITIVE THIHKER, HUH
YOU SPECIALIZE IN ETHICS, MORITA -SENSEI
HOW DO YOU THINK I SHOULD HANDLE THE SITUATION?
HMM?

NO...
I DON'T KNOW YET.
WHO WAS IT, DO YOU KNOW?
HANDLE, YOU SAY.. THE PERSON WHO SCRATCHED YOUR CAR?
IT WILL ALSO BE THE DUTY OF THE PARENTS TO HELP ME DO SO.
HMM
I THINK I SHOULD CATCH THEM
AND GIVE THEM A STRICT SCOLDING.
OR I COULD USE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH THEM A LESSON ABOUT DOING BAD THINGS
OH..
BECAUSE IT'S HAPPENED THREE TIMES, I GUESS...
YOU THINK IT WAS A STUDENT
UH...
I SEE.
THEY KNEW WHICH CAR WAS MINE AND WENT FOR IT.
I DON'T THINK IT WAS AN OUTSIDER.
SO, THE GREAT DETECTIVE SAYS,
THE CULPRIT IS A "STUDENT!".
HUH.

HUH..?
I DOUBT I WOULD UNDERSTAND IT, EVEN IF I HAD READ IT.
Hey
HAVEN'T YOU READ, "THE LITTLE PRINCE"?
I've read "Wind, Sand and Stars" though
THE "STUDENTS" THINK YOU ARE..
HMM..
LIKE AN ALIEN TO THEM.
?
AH. WELL, I CERTAINLY AM
LIKE SOMETHING FROM "ASTEROID B-612"
IN OUR WORK, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY.
FIVE THOUSAND ROSES
FIVE BILLION STARS,
A HUNDRED THOUSAND FOXES
I SEE..
YOU SHOULD READ IT.
IN SUCH A ROMANTIC WAY IS NO HELP.
TALKING ABOUT THINGS
NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS
I THINK WE'RE TREATING THEM AS IF THEY ARE JUST "STARS".
BY ASSIGNING THE STARS NUMBERS

MANAGING STUDENTS IS A TEACHER'S JOB.

IN OTHER WORDS...
THE "EGOTISM" THAT SOSEKI HAS WRITTEN ABOUT HERE
DOES NOT MEAN "LIVING HOW YOU WANT" AS DESCRIBED BELOW.
BUT ACKNOWLEDGING THE EGOS OF OTHER AND RESPECTING THEM.
Sigh
.....

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO TAKE ME HOME
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE GOT A BABY TO LOOK AFTER.
NO WORRIES
I'M SORRY THAT
AO WAS IN A BAD MOOD AND COMPLAINING AT THE END.
A BABY'S CRYING IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE.
YOU FEEL TIRED UNTIL YOU GET USED TO IT.
The crying.
I DON'T THINK I'M READY FOR THAT YET.
SENSEI
YOUR PERSONALITY HAS CHANGED.
IS THAT SO?
YOU'RE EASIER TO TALK TO..
YOU WERE DIFFICULT TO APPROACH BEFORE.
AH.
YOU WERE KIND OF SCARY..
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM THE STUDENTS,
SO I WAS ALWAYS TENSE BACK THEN

SFX CLICK CLICK
カサ
カサ
カサ
cough
カサ
MIHASHI,
A LOT
HAS HAPPENED TOO...
THANKS FOR COMING TODAY.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT KURUMI,
BUT I DOUBT EVERYONE HAS FORGIVEN ME YET
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT
YOU CAME, EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE DID.

I ACTUALLY
CAME HERE TODAY BECAUSE KURUMI'S PARENTS
ASKED ME TO.
OKAY...
I HAD
A FEELING THAT
WAS THE REASON.
BUT DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME.
NO MATTER WHAT EVERYONE ELSE THINKS,
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, OOMIYA-SENSEI.
WHAT KURUMI DID WASN'T FAIR
SHE KNEW THAT I LIKE YOU,
BUT SHE INTERFERED ANYWAY

AND ENDED UP PREG-NANT!
BUT EVERY-ONE BLAMED YOU,
IT WASN'T FAIR
AND YOU GOT ALL THE CRITICISM INSTEAD!
I HEARD THAT
YOU.
WEREN'T PLANNING TO GET MARRIED,
BUT KURUMI FORCED YOU TO.
YOU ACTUALLY
MIHASHI,
WANTED HER TO HAVE AN ABORTION.
I'M..
I'VE..
WANTED TO APOLO-GIZE FOR A LONG TIME,
REALLY SORRY THAT I
THREW AWAY YOUR LETTER BACK THEN.

IT WAS MY FAULT
THAT YOU FELT THAT YOU HAD TO GO THAT FAR
AFTER IT HAPPENED,
DID KURUMI
TELL YOU THAT?!

SENSEI, YOU IDIOT...
Scratch
STOP THAT

THE SEVEN MYS-TERIES OF THE SCHOOL.
IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING LATE AT NIGHT...
YEAH, RIGHT...
Sigh
I GUESS I'LL GO HOME...
AH...
Ouuu...
SFX: CREAK
ギシ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO LATE?
GO HOME NOW!
AH.
HUH... IT'S YOU, ITABASHI.
SFX: CLATTER
ガタ
WHOA!
SENSEI...
ビクッ
WHAT WERE YOU...
Ah
SFX: SHOCK

JUST A SCRATCH? HEY YOU.
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH IT.
THE NURSE'S ROOM IS LOCKED.
I CAME TO BORROW THE KEY.
.....
WHAT HAPPENED?!
HEY...
.....
I KNOW THE WOUND ISN'T DEEP.
BUT YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT UNTREATED, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE, TELL ME
I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

……
SENSEI,
I'M SORRY.
I WAS THE ONE WHO SCRATCHED YOUR CAR
I'LL GET A PART-TIME JOB AND PAY YOU BACK.
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME…
I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN
A KID LIKE YOU IS TRYING TO TRICK ME!
PRO-TECTING YOUR FRIEND IS YOUR CHOICE.
BUT I WOULDN'T CALL THAT A FRIEND-SHIP
I DON'T THINK CATCHING THEM IS GOING TO SOLVE THINGS.
……
HEY…

ITABASHI, YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME A LOT RECENTLY, HAVEN'T YOU?
IT'S BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES!
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT!
RECENTLY?
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU WERE WATCHING ME RIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME THESE PAST FEW DAYS
Haha
OH NO,
SENSEI
YOU'VE ONLY JUST NOTICED
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU
MUCH LONGER THAN THAT.
THAT I WAS LOOKING,

I'M INTERESTED IN YOU...
BUT I LIKE YOU, SENSEI...
I THINK YOU KNOW ALREADY...
COULD YOU TREAT ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL INSTEAD OF JUST A STUDENT?
DON'T ASK ME TO BECOME MORE THAN A TEACHER
.....
I CAN'T AGREE TO THAT.
IT IS.
I WOULDN'T CONSIDER IT EITHER.
IS IT REALLY UNTHINKABLE FOR ME TO BECOME YOUR PARTNER?
.....

WHAT ABOUT AFTER GRADUATION?
NO.
AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN ME AS A PERSON?
NO.
BECAUSE I'M A CHILD?
THAT'S ANOTHER REASON
IS IT BECAUSE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?
THAT'S RIGHT
/
YOU'RE NOT TELLING THE TRUTH, ARE YOU?
.....
YEAH.

I'M
I'M SORRY.
NO.
DAMN IT...

.....
HEY
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
UH..
UMM..
MY FIRST TIME KISSING SOME-ONE...
THIS IS.
YEAH?
UM. BUT...
NO.
UMM..

SHE FELT MUCH SOFTER THAN I IMAGINED...

I WAS LOST IN THE MOMENT.
SIMPLE
JUST LIKE A CHILD COMPLAIN-ING BECAUSE THERE'S A TOY HE WANTS.
AND SUPER-FICIAL.
I THOUGH I WAS AN ADULT,
AND THAT I COULD BEHAVE PROPERLY.

SFX CLICK CLICK

KNOWN THAT, RIGHT?
YOU'RE HER CLOSEST FRIEND, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE
I KNOW
YOU'RE NOT A BAD KID, MIHASHI..
BUT PLEASE,
COME AGAIN.
IT MUST BE COMPLICATED BECAUSE YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS,
SFX SLAM
バタ

THAT LIGHT...
IS MY STAR...

Lesson:2\END

I BELIEVE THAT LIGHT IS REAL.

LESSON;3

DIDN'T I SAY WE'D NEVER BE APART AGAIN?
I WAS BEING SERIOUS THEN!
SFX: HEHEHE
SFX: SLAM

SFX CLATTER
SFX GRAB
SFX SLAM
HEH...

HEY, YOU!
WHAT?!
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
Haha
YOU'RE SO WEIRD.
AHAHA!
OH NO, SENSEI!
THE MOVIE WAS PRETTY INTE-RESTING. RIGHT?
AHAHA!
I WAS ONLY JOKING!
BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE A MOVIE.
I HAD TO DO ALL THIS!!
NO WAY...
IT WASN'T.

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE SITTING,
I BEGAN WONDERING ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE DOING, AND ALSO WHAT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT
SO I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL.
AND WHEN I FOUND YOU,
IN THE END,
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS CRAZY ABOUT HER
WE KEPT CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER TO A MINIMUM.
BUT IF ANYONE KNEW THIS, IT WOULD ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE.
WHEN WE MET UP TOGETHER, IT WOULD ALWAYS BE SOMEWHERE WE WOULDN'T BE RECOGNIZED.
WE KNEW WE WERE IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION.
WE WERE AWARE OF THAT MUCH.

I'M ALWAYS MEETING YOU AT HOTELS, SO DOESNT GOING TO THE MOVIES.
EVEN THOUGH WE WEREN'T SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER?
FEEL LIKE A DATE?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE TO BE TOGETHER WHEN WATCHING, RIGHT?
I THINK THAT
"WATCHING A MOVIE TOGETHER" MEANS
THE FEELING OF BEING CLOSE TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME AND SHARING THE SAME EXPERIENCE...
SFX SIGH
IT'S THE SAME, RIGHT?
EVEN IF YOU WATCH WHILE SITTING TOGETHER,
YOU'RE STILL LOOKING AT OTHER PEOPLE
SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS?

KURUMI WAS CALM.
SFX: GLANCE
ちら
STOP HANGING AROUND THE CORRIDOR
HEY
AH.
ALL RIGHT!

DIAPERS, MILK, PACIFIER, CLOTHES, TOWELS, TISSUES, WET WIPES, TOYS AND PICTURE BOOKS.
Y-YES...
I THINK SO.
HAVE YOU GOT EVERYTHING?
THEN I'LL CARRY AO IN THE BABY SLING*
SHALL I CARRY THE THINGS ON THE WAY THERE?
IT'LL BE A DISASTER IF I FORGOT THE PACIFIER AGAIN.
*BABY SLING: A CLOTH USED TO CARRY A BABY.
SFX KYAA
SFX AHAHA
NO WAY!
AH, LIKE WHEN YOU DID LAST TIME
SFX KYAA
AND THEN.

AH.
.....
GOOD MORNING!
.....
HEL-LO
.....
I'M NOT GOOD IN SITUATIONS LIKE THAT.
ガタン
ゴトン
.....

SFX CLATTER

SFX CLATTER CLATTER
NO...
SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THAT
REMINDS ME OF THE KENNEL I'D SEEN ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, WHERE THERE WAS A DOG WITHOUT A LEASH.
SFX CLUNK
Ahaha
I DON'T THINK
ANYONE IS.
Heh
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HEY, I WAS SCARED, YOU KNOW?
I WAS BEGGING IT EVERYDAY.
"PLEASE DON'T BARK AT ME."
SFX CLATTER CLUNK
WELL.
WE...
I MEAN, I MUST LOOK STRANGE.
DON'T YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE WORRIED?
THEY MIGHT BE CONCERNED THAT THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT US.
THEY'LL THINK, "WHY DOES SHE HAVE A CHILD?"
BECAUSE IT'S THE MOTHER WHO PROTECTS THE CHILD.
SFX CLATTER CLUNK CLATTER

IT WAS BEFORE NEW YEARS.
WHEN AO WASN'T WEANED YET.
THE LAST TIME?
WHEN WAS...
SFX: CLATTER CLUNK-CLATTER
I CALLED THEM THIS MORNING,
AND I WAS PREPARED FOR THEM TO BE ANGRY AT ME.
SFX: WAAH
SFX: CLATTER
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AH... HMM...
WE CAN DO THAT AFTER WE SEE YOUR PARENTS.
I SEE.
SFX: CLATTER CLUNK
AO.
I HOPE THEY'LL SEE US TODAY.
SFX: KYAA

Please go home.
I'M SORRY.
SFX RUSTLE

COME ON,
IT'S OKAY, SENSEI!
WE'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING IN CASE THIS HAPPENED!
FORGET ABOUT PLAN A,
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAN B!
RIGHT?
PLAN B?
YEAH.
EVEN IF OUR PLANS DON'T TURN OUT RIGHT,
WE WON'T HAVE TO PANIC IF WE'VE GOT AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN, RIGHT?

THIS!
WHAT?
YEAH... THE RIGHT ANSWER IS B
HMM...
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "MADE TO DO SOMETHING RELUCTANTLY" AND "OVERCOMING RELUCTANCE TO DO SOMETHING"...
WHAT IS IT?
NO, IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT... I guess
SO IT'S LIKE GOING TO TOKYU HANDS IF LOFT IS CLOSED?
AH~
AH... HEY SENSEI!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS? THIS!
YOU REALLY ARE A TEACHER.
IT'S AMAZING!
YOU ALWAYS ANSWER ALL MY QUESTIONS

HMM...
WHEN YOU GRADUATE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THIS KIND OF QUESTION WITHOUT MY HELP.
IT'S NOT AMAZING.
RIGHT.
THEN YOU MUST BE AMAZING.
HOW EXACTLY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IS THAT A TEACHER'S JOB?
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AMAZING.
I'M NO ONE SPECIAL, I JUST HAPPEN TO BE A LITTLE-OLDER.
SOMEDAY SHE'LL REALIZE THAT I JUST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HER IGNORANCE AND LACK OF EXPERIENCE.

I'M READING IT TOO.
Heh
OH?
AH...
"THE LITTLE PRINCE"
Hehe
DON'T LAUGH. ALL RIGHT, SENSEI?
WHAT ARE YOU READING?
I WON'T LAUGH.
MORITA -SENSEI!
Haha
WHY'S THAT?
READING THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE GOING TO THE ZOO.
HMM?
BECAUSE I CAN'T DRAW SHEEP EITHER.
HOW MUCH HAVE YOU READ, SENSEI?
Hehe
DON'T YOU LIKE IT TOO, "OOMIYA-SENSEI?"
YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING IT.
I'VE READ IT ONCE.
NOW I'M READING IKEZAWA'S TRANSLATION.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M HAPPILY IN LOVE WHILE
BEING LOCKED IN A CAGE-LIKE ROOM WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF THE SUN,
BUT I CAN'T
SAY IT'S UNPRODUCTIVE.
WHEN YOU GRADU-ATE..
REALLY?
I WAS THE ONE WHO COULDN'T LET GO.
I HADN'T THOUGHT
OF A PLAN B.
HEY!

WAAH!
AO~
THAT'S A GIRAFFE, A GIRAFFE.
WAAH!
IT'S OKAY.
SHE'S MIMICKING THE SOUND IT MAKES.
MIMETIC WORDS ARE CONSIDERED BABY TALK, BUT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE IS FILLED WITH THESE KIND OF EXPRESSIONS.
IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "WHOOSH" OR "THROB"
AND THEY SOUND NICE WHEN YOU HEAR THEM TOO, RIGHT?
AH.
THOSE ARE CALLED ONOMATO-POEIA.
SOR-RY.
WHY?
TELL ME MORE.

I WANTED TO KEEP YOU ALL TO MYSELF.
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY.
I WANTED TO GO TO MORE OF YOUR CLASSES.

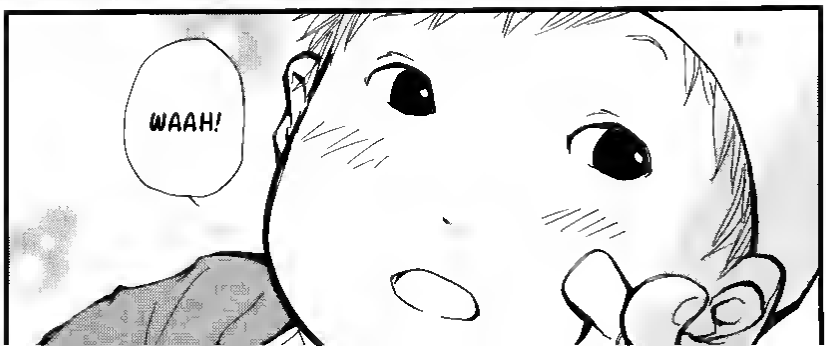
OOMIYA -SENSEI!
MORITA -SENSEI.
SFX: CLATTER
HUH?
ガターン!!
SFX: SLAM
HELP ME FOR A MINUTE!
FIRST YEAR STUDENT, KURUMI ITABASHI...

ITABA-SHI!
SFX SHOCK
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ITABASHI?
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
NOTHING'S WRONG.
I'LL BE FINE SOON.
SFX HUFF HUFF
WHA..
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S TRUE!
YOU'RE REALLY PALE...
ANYWAY, LET'S GET YOU TO THE NURSE'S ROOM.
NO..
NO... DON'T TOUCH ME...
UH...
UH...
ITABA-SHI?

YOU...
ARE YOU..
NO, YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE WRONG! STOP THAT!
I...
I SEE..
BUT...
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
IT'LL BE FINE IF I'M MISTAKEN...
I'M FINE
WE WON'T TELL THE SCHOOL.
BUT WE SHOULD FIND OUR EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON SOON.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP THE BABY.
HUH...

NO...
THAT'S CRAZY!
IS THAT TRUE?
NO WAY...
I'M SURE THAT I...
NO. SENSEI!
WHA...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...?
PLAN B IS...


WAAH!

IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY
I'M SURE SHE'LL REMEMBER IT SOON.
HMM...
SO ELEPHANTS GO "WAAH" TOO?
"AND EVEN WHEN I SHOWED YOU A BIRD YOU MADE A MEOWING SOUND"
"WHEN I SHOWED YOU AN ELEPHANT, YOU MADE A MEOWING SOUND"
SFX SMACK
"STANDING IN THE LIGHT OF THIS WORLD"
"AT THAT TIME, YOU WERE"
"AND JUST WATCHED..."
"THAT YOU COULD ONLY GAZE AT IT, WITHOUT SAYING A WORD"
"YOU WERE SO ENTRANCED BY IT'S ANTLERS"
"IT WAS ONLY WHEN I SHOWED YOU A DEER"
THAT'S CUTE.
HE MUST LOVE CHILDREN.
IT'S BY CHUUYA NAKAHARA.
AH
Haha
WHAT WAS THAT?

AH...
I'M HUNGRY...
MMM
IT WAS...
OKAY OKAY
WA-AH!
A POEM FOR A DEAD CHILD.
HEY, DON'T CRY.
AH.
ぽた
ぽた
SFX DRIP DRIP
AH...
...

NOW,
JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME CRY.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I SEEM LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON
COMPARED TO HOW I WAS
WHEN I'D JUST FOUND OUR I WAS PREGNANT
PEOPLE..
KEEP ON CHANGING,
SEN-SEI.
ICHIGO.

MO...
MOM...!

AOI -CHAN...!
CAN...
CAN I HOLD HER?
OF COUR- SE.
YOU CAN SIT UP ALREADY.
YOU'RE A SMART KID.
I SEE.
AH.
THERE WE GO.

AH...
UH...
SFX: HUG
BUT I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D BE CUTE.
YOU'RE CUTE.
SO CUTE.
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD HAPPEN,
WHEN THIS CHILD TURNS ONE YEAR OLD...
IT HURTS ME TO TURN YOU AWAY WHEN YOU VISIT.

HAVE YOU DECIDED...
TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND PUT AN END TO YOUR MISTAKE?
YOU MUST KNOW WHAT MARRIED LIFE IS LIKE BY NOW.
COME OVER TO OUR HOUSE ALONE TONIGHT,
ICHIGO.
WE'LL TALK FOR THE LAST TIME

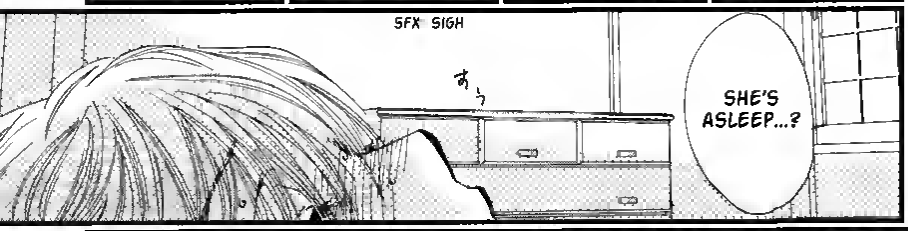
LESSON:4

TAKE YOUR PANTS OFF RIGHT NOW!
HEY!
NO...
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE! THE ONLY FEVER MEDICINE WE HAVE IS THE SUPPOSITORIES WE GIVE TO AO.
SO STOP STRUGGLING AND BEND OVER!
NOOO!
!
AH.
AH...
TRY AND SAY "AH"?
HMM..
I CAN'T, ALRIGHT?
RELAX

SFX: SOB
ARE YOU A KID?
AH-
YOU STAYED UP LATE STUDYING AND CAUGHT A COLD
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S UNBELIE-VABLE...
IT'S UNBELIE-VABLE...
I CAN'T WASTE ALL THE THINGS
YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF TEACHING ME
EVEN WHEN YOU WERE SO TIRED FROM WORK
BUT...
I'VE GOT THE HIGH SCHOOL GRAD EXAM SOON, RIGHT?
HIGH SCHOOL GRAD EXAM = CERTIFICATE FOR STUDENTS ACHIEVING THE PROFICIENCY LEVEL OF UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES (FORMERLY UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION EXAM)
TO BE DOING THINGS FOR ME?
YES...
ISN'T IT STRANGE FOR YOU
I'M TEACHING YOU
THESE THINGS FOR YOU OWN SAKE.
.....

SFX: TAP
SFX: RUSH
てきぱき
THEN GET SOME SLEEP!
MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT TOO HOT AND NOT TOO COLD.
HERE'S YOUR TEA
THEN GET CHANGED NOW
IF YOU GET IT,
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED?
As will get sick so you'll have to stay away from her!
A TOWEL,
AN ICE PACK,
A CHANGE OF CLOTHES
NO..
NOTHING..
HEH...
Hehehe
DON'T THINK YOU CAN STAY AT MY HOUSE FOR TWO DAYS WITH A COLD.
I won't let you stay over at my house for two days!
LIKE THIS WHEN YOU WERE SICK?
AH~
DID YOUR MOM LOOK AFTER YOU
Hehe
SEN-SEI,
WHAT IS IT?

...KURUMI?
IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
FOR HER TO FORGIVE ME.
BUT IT'S STILL VERY DIFFICULT
SHE'S SUCH A KIND PERSON



THE REASON EVERYONE CAN'T FORGIVE ME...

SFX: TAP TAP
SO?
SFX: CREAK
WHERE YOU WERE BOTH EQUALS AND ADULTS
IF IT WAS A NORMAL RELA-TIONSHIP,
HOW WON-DERFUL!
MORITA-SENSEI
WE...
WE WERE SERIOUS ABOUT DATING EACH OTHER.
AH!
THEY'RE NOT UNUSUAL THESE DAYS.
IT WON'T BE A PROB-LEM!
SHE'S LEGALLY OLD ENOUGH TO MARRY,
IT'D BE A SHOTGUN WEDDING, WOULDN'T IT?

SENSEI...
OOMIYA -SENSEI,
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
TO MAKE EX-CUSES? TO PRO-TECT YOUR-SELF?
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING
NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
I'M PRE-PARED FOR YOU TO SCOLD ME
PLEASE GIVE ME SOME ADVICE
SCOLD YOU?
HAHAHA
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A PERSON LIKE ME COULD DO.
I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF CAUSING YOU TROUBLE LIKE THAT.
BESIDES, DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'VE COME TO GET MY ADVICE ABOUT?
YOU'D EITHER BE TAKING AWAY ALL THE POTENTIAL A STUDENT HAS
OR TAKING THE LIFE OF A CHILD.
DON'T FORCE ME TO HELP YOU MAKE THAT CHOICE.

I WARNED YOU ABOUT ONE THING.
"KEEP MATTERS RELATED TO STUDENTS AND YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS SEPARATE"
YOU HAVE ALREADY BROKEN AN IMPORTANT RULE.
THE ONLY THING YOU'LL BE PERMITTED TO DO
IS TO ANSWER HER WISHES, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
DON'T THINK THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A CHOICE ANYMORE.
I HAVE MY PRECIOUS ROSES.
DON'T APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN.
BEFORE I...
BEFORE I PLANT THE BAOBAB SEEDS THAT DESTROYS YOU TWO, THE STARS.

WELL THEN...
WE'LL CONTINUE WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
PAGE 815 OF THE TEXTBOOK.
SENSEI?
.....
.....
.....
I JUST FEEL
SORRY.
SO...
SFX: AH
な？
A BIT SICK...
STUDY BY YOURSELVES FOR A WHILE.
.....

I'M GOING TO CHOOSE?
IF I SAY I WANT TO HAVE THE CHILD,
YOU'LL QUIT YOUR JOB AND MARRY ME.
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
OF...
OF COURSE.
Haha
MORITA -SENSEI SAID
THE SAME THING TO ME.
THAT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
WELL, HE'S RIGHT.
JUST DO
WHAT YOU WANT, ITABASHI.
HEH...

HEY, SENSEI.
YOU SAID YOU LIKED ME BEFORE, DIDN'T YOU?
IN WHAT KIND OF WAY?
NO MATTER WHICH WAY I WENT, I WAS CORNERED, AS IF BEING TORMENTED.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY WORDS WITH WHICH I COULD ANSWER PROUDLY.
WOULDN'T WHATEVER I SAID SEEM SELFISH?
LIKE THIS...
WELL...
WHAT KIND OF WAY...?

KYOKA IZUMI.
A PERFECT LOVE IS
ALIAS OF "SELF-LESS-NESS".
SFX GRAB
I'M BEING LIKE YOU, SENSEI!
!

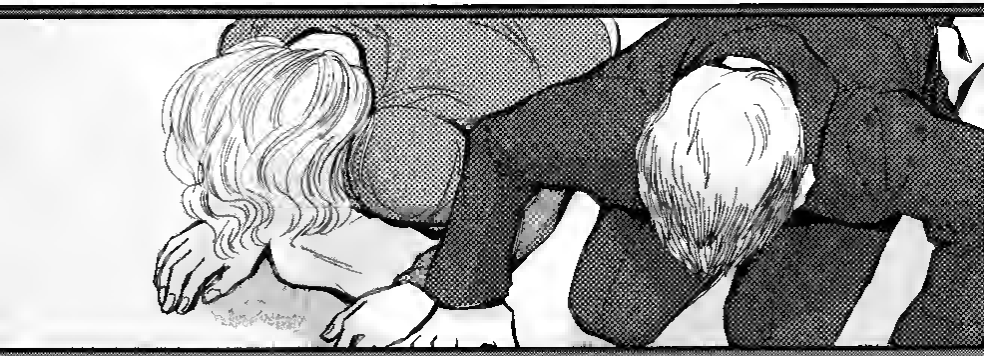
IT'S OKAY.
I'LL PROTECT YOU, SENSEI.
AH...
BUT...
SFX DRIP
HAHA.
I...
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THE OPERATION WILL COST, BUT I CAN...

NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES
I'D BEEN CALLED
A FOOL,

WOULD ALWAYS
BE THE SAME.

THE CHOICE THAT
I MADE NEXT,

NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES
I MADE IT.



PLEASE. SENSEI!!!
PLEASE!
PLEASE...
PLEASE SOME-HOW FORGET ALL THIS!
WHY?
PLEASE...
PLEASE LOOK UP. ITABASHI -SAN.
I SHOULO BE THE ONE KNEELING OOWN.
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

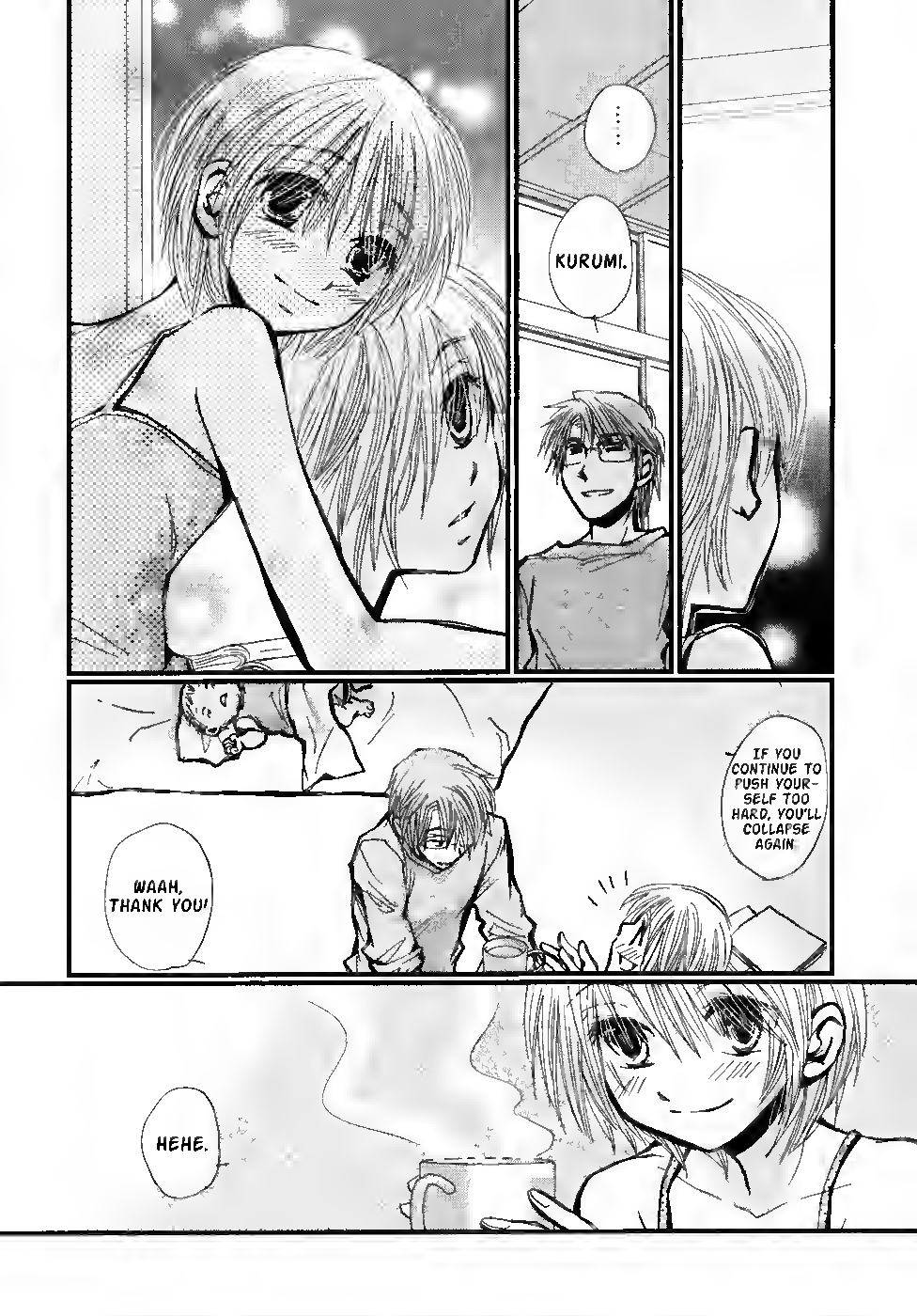
I WAS PREPARED FOR
ANY AMOUNT OF
PUNISHMENT
AND ANGER
PLEASE!
Principal
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
CAN YOU DEAL WITH IT QUIETLY?
.....
RINCIPAL?
I DID
SOMETHING THAT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR A TEACHER TO DO..?
WHY AREN'T I BEING PUNISHED?

IT'S QUITE CLEAR.
YOU DID SOMETHING SHAMEFUL, OOMIYA -SENSEI.
WE CAN'T ALLOW THINGS LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN
DISCIPLINARY DISMISSAL?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY OVER PERSONAL ISSUES, PRINCIPAL.
I'M ONLY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, AS INSTRUCTED BY THE PREFECTURAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE
SHALL WE HAVE A PTA GENERAL MEETING FIRST?
THE STUDENT AND HER PARENTS' IDENTITIES WILL BE REVEALED
THEN IF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE RECEIVE A REPORT AND COME AND CARRY OUR AN INVESTIGATION.
YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER
HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE MET UP.
HOW LONG YOU'D BEEN MEETING,
AND WHETHER ANYTHING HAPPENED INSIDE THE SCHOOL.
THIS APPLIES TO THE STUDENT TOO

TO RE-STORE THE TRUST THAT WAS LOST.
THE REMAIN-ING TEACHERS WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO DEAL WITH THE SITUA-TION.
ANO AFTER YOU'VE LEFT,
TO SATISFY YOURSELF?
WHY OIO YOU OECIOE TO MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE PUBLIC?
IT'S UNFOR-TUNATE THAT YOU HAD TO RESIGN
BE-CAUSE OF THIS SITUA-TION.
YOU WERE AN EXCELLENT TEACHER.
CONGRA-TULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE, OOMIYA -SENSEI.
I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY.

SFX FLIP
HAHA.
IS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING...
PUNISHING YOURSELF
WHY?
HOW DISGUSTING.
IS THAT TRUE?
EVEN THOUGH ITABASHI HAD TO QUIT...
HE'S THE WORST.
HE GOT KURUMI PREGNANT, RIGHT?
WHY HASN'T OOMIYA BEEN FIRED?

WE'VE GOT TO BE HAPPY.
HAVE WE,
SFX: RING
BECOME HAPPY?


KURUMI.
IF YOU CONTINUE TO PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, YOU'LL COLLAPSE AGAIN.
WAAH, THANK YOU!
HEHE.

SFX CORRECT, CORRECT, CORRECT
KURUMI.
LET ME SEE...
YOU ARE ONE.
YOU AREN'T LIKE ONE.
I FEEL LIKE A STUDENT PREPARING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
YES.
SO...
REALLY?
I THINK YOU'LL PASS.
YOU'RE DOING REALLY WELL.
WHAT WILL YOU DO
IF YOU PASS?

Ah,
I'M GOING TO NEED MONEY FOR AO FROM NOW ON
I'LL START WORKING
AH
A PART-TIME JOB.
THAT SHOULD BE EASY ONCE I GET MY HIGH SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS,
SO I THINK I'LL DO A BIT OF WORK?
WHAT WILL I DO?
THEN MAYBE I'LL ENROLL IN A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE
HMM... AND I'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO COOK, WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT.
KURUMI,
IS THAT
WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?
IS THAT THE
HAPPINESS YOU'VE CHOSEN FOR YOURSELF?

IS IT, OKAY?
I WAS
ALWAYS AFRAID.
A PERFECT LOVE IS THE
ALIAS OF "SELFLESSNESS".
WHAT ABOUT KURUMI?
WHAT ABOUT HER FEELINGS?
FOR ME
FOR AO

...KURUMI.
THE OTHER DAY...
YOU MOTHER CAME AROUND HERE TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY,
EVEN THOUGH SHE'D BEEN REFUSING TO SEE US ALL THIS TIME...
SO...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER
WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT AO IS HAPPY.

WHAT WOULD YOU REALLY LIKE TO DO?
SOMEHOW,
I WAS EXPECTING
HER TO REFUSE IMMEDIATELY

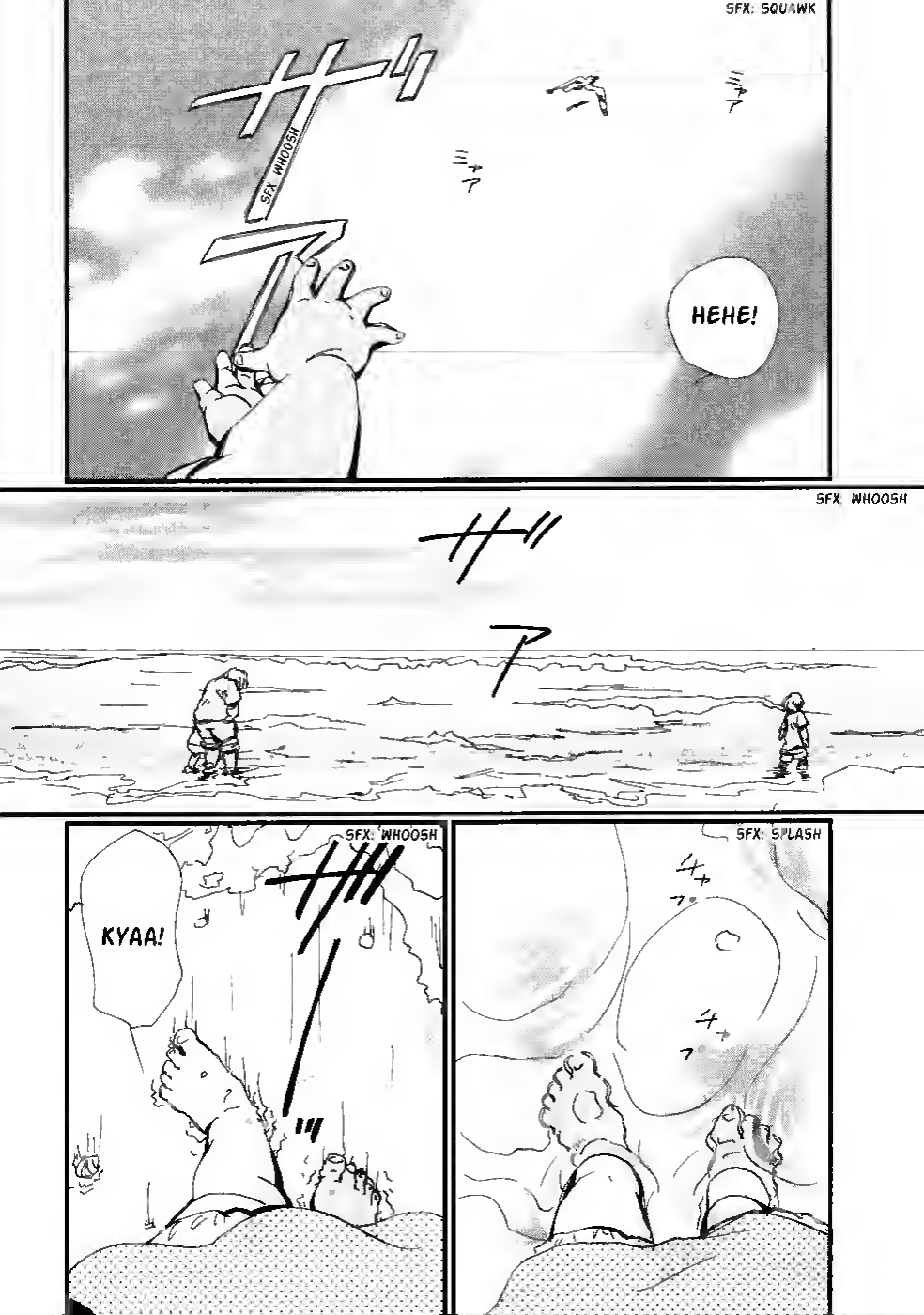
THAT PIECE OF WRITING BY KYOKA IZUMI THAT KURUMI QUOTED FROM...
WHAT WAS THE REST OF IT LIKE?
WOULD FALLING IN LOVE AFTER MARRIAGE
BE A GREAT MISTAKE?

...RIGHT.
THE EYES OF THE GIRL I LOVED.
THOSE EYES.
AH.

THAT MIGHT BE BETTER...
THOSE EYES THAT DON'T REVEAL WHAT SHE'S THINK-ING.

Lesson;4/END

LAST LESSON


SFX: SQUAWK
SFX: WHOOSH
HEHE!
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: WHOOSH
KYAA!
SFX: SPLASH

AOI-CHAN.
WERE YOU SURPRISED?
YOU CAN HOLD MY HAND IF YOU WANT.
AH.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE BEEN TO THE BEACH.
DIDN'T YOU USE TO TAKE ME EVERY YEAR?
TO TOI, RIGHT?
THE COMPANY I WORKED FOR HAD A RESORT THEN.
LOOK, AO.
THERE'S A PRETTY STONE HERE.
SO...
.....

ABOUT KURUMI -SAN...
IS SHE...
DOING WELL?
SFX WHOOSH
YES.
SHE'S TRYING TO DO HER BEST
WITH HER STUDIES AND SO ON.
SFX. WHOOSH
I SEE...
NO...
SFX WHOOSH
I'M SORRY THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD REACT.
WHY?
SFX WHOOSH
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, DAD.

RESPONSI-
BILITY?

IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT BECAUSE WE HAPPEN TO BE A TEACHER AND STUDENT.
BUT WE MADE THIS DECISION AFFTER DISCUSSING IT CAREFULLY.
YES.
I WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN.
SHE WANTS TO GET MARRIED.
HER PARENTS HAVE AGREED TO IT, DESPITE OUR AGE DIFFERENCE...
BUT SHE IS A SMART GIRL.
SHE MAY STILL BE A CHILD...
HURT HER ANYMORE.
I DON'T WANT TO
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.
IT'S MY FAULT.
SHUT UP!
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOREVER.
BY STAYING WITH HER

DON'T THINK THAT IT'S A TEACHER'S MORAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
JUST BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE HER HAPPY!
YOU'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT HER?
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY?
YOU MAKE ME SICK...!

IF YOU DON'T RESPOND TO THEIR FEELINGS,
IT WOULD BE A CHANCE TO TEACH THEM ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY AND THEIR POSITION.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF A STUDENT FALLS IN LOVE WITH YOU.
FOR TEACHERS.
A SCHOOL IS NOT A DATING AGENCY
TARGETING THEM WHILE THEY LACK EXPERIENCE
TO BECOME INDEPENDENT.
A TEACHER WHO PREYS ON STUDENTS.

DOING THAT...
MARRYING SOMEONE EVEN THOUGH YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM WAS A BETRAYAL OF SOCIETY...
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULDN'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO
HURT THAT GIRL AGAIN.
I'M GOING TO DECIDE?
SHE HAS...
SHE HAS A CHILD.
I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THAT CHILD.
DON'T I?

DON'T BE SO CON-CEITED!
THAT GIRL PROTECTED THE LIFE OF THAT CHILD.
THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT
WHO ANO WHAT YOU SHOULO BE
TAKING RESPON-SIBILITY FOR.
MARRIAGE.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
BUT...
I WON'T BE SEEING YOU TWO FOR A WHILE.
GO HOME.

THE BABY MOVED AGAIN.
AH.
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS MAYBE IT WAS THE BABY'S HEEL?
DOES IT HURT?
IT KEEPS PUSHING BACK AND FORTH.
A LITTLE BIT.
AH, I WONDER IF THE BABY WILL BE BORN SOON.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
NOT AT ALL!
I'VE PREPARED FOR THIS BY READING LOTS OF BOOKS!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

7 CENTIMETERS.
THE CERVIX IS QUITE DILATED,
SO YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR BABY BORN TONIGHT!
THANK YOU.
SFX: SNAP
TO...
TONIGHT...

SFX: RUSTLE
バサ
バサ
YOU DOING?
.....
WHAT ARE
I'M GOING HOME.
IT DOESN'T SEEM REAL.
HMM ..
SO IT'S FINALLY TIME.
KURUMI, YOU...
HMM?
SFX: RUSTLE
IM-POS-SIBLE!
BUT THIS IS IMPOS-SIBLE!
IT'LL HURT MORE THAN IT DOES NOW...
UNTIL EVE-NING...
IT'S NOT LIKE GOING HOME WILL STOP THE PAIN!
ANY WAY...
YOU CAN'T GO HOME!
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT, SILLY?!

OW...
AH, HERE IT COMES!
NO...
OWW...!!
WAAAY...
Hmm
THE TIME BETWEEN CONTRACTIONS IS GETTING SHORTER
I CAN'T DO IT!
WOA...
WOA...
I'll try and do something to ease your pain too
SFX WHOOSH
HUFF...
HUFF, HUFF...
COME ON,
TRY THE BREATHING TECHNIQUE
HEY.
ALL OF THEM
WERE REALLY IMPRESSIVE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THEY'VE DONE THIS MORE THAN ONCE!
OWW!
OWW! OWW!
MOM...
MY COUSIN MAMI-CHAN...
MINA -SENSEI...
THEY ALWAYS MAKE A BIG DEAL WHEN THEY HURT THEIR KNEE OR CUT THEIR FINGER!
NO WAY...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

SFX SOB
I CAN'T DO IT...
I...
I CAN'T...
TAKE THIS ANY-MORE...
I'M GOING HOME
I WANT TO GO HOME.
I WANT TO.
EAT THE...

WANT...
TO EAT...
THE SOUP AND
HAMBURGERS MY MOM MAKES...
TO DRINK...
THE TEA THAT WAS A GIFT FROM THE COMPANY MY DAD WORKED FOR.
TO LIE AROUND READING MAGAZINES
WHILE TALKING TO ERI-CHAN ON THE PHONE...

SFX PATTER
IT'S MY FAULT...
I'M SORRY THAT THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
IF YOU'D HAD AN ABORTION THEN,
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO GO BACK TO YOUR OLD LIFE...

SENSEI,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SAY IT RIGHT.
THE PLACE YOU SHOULD BE GOING BACK TO.
BUT THE HOME WHERE
ISN'T YOUR MOM AND DAD'S HOME,
YOU AND I ARE WAITING FOR AO-CHAN.

OF COURSE I WAS FEELING ANXIOUS.

SENSEI,
I WANT TO HAVE THE BABY.
OUR BABY.
IF YOU'LL TELL ME THAT.
IN THAT CASE...
I'M THE ONLY ONE
IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN WORK HARD AT THAT.

OKAY!
RELAX!
RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT!
ALL RIGHT.
OKAY.
PUSH!
THAT'S IT!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT.

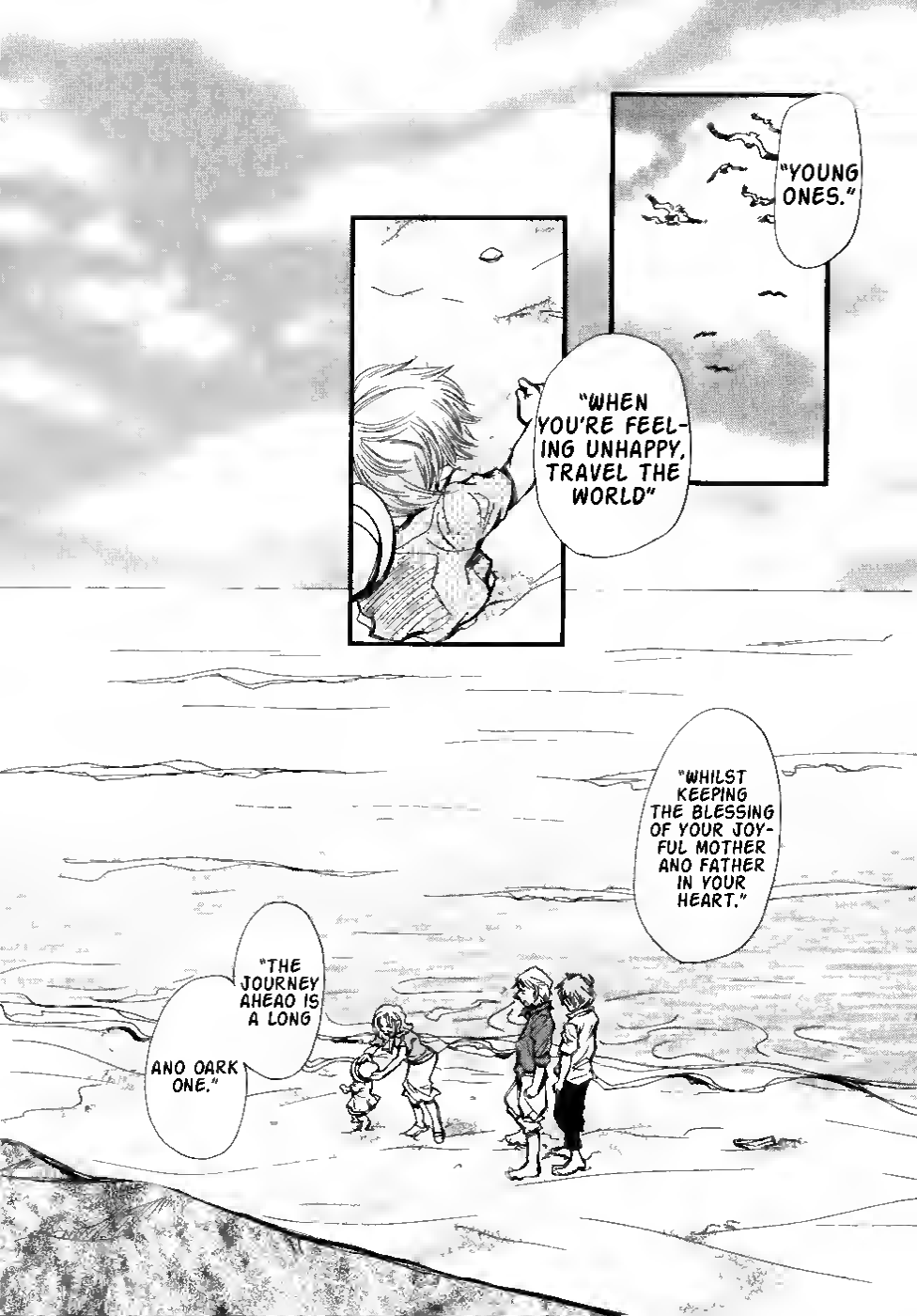
SFX SPLASH
HOW IS SHE?
SFX DRIP
SHE ISN'T SCARED SINCE THIS IS HER FIRST TIME IN A REGULAR BATHTUB
INSTEAD OF A BABY BATH?
NO.

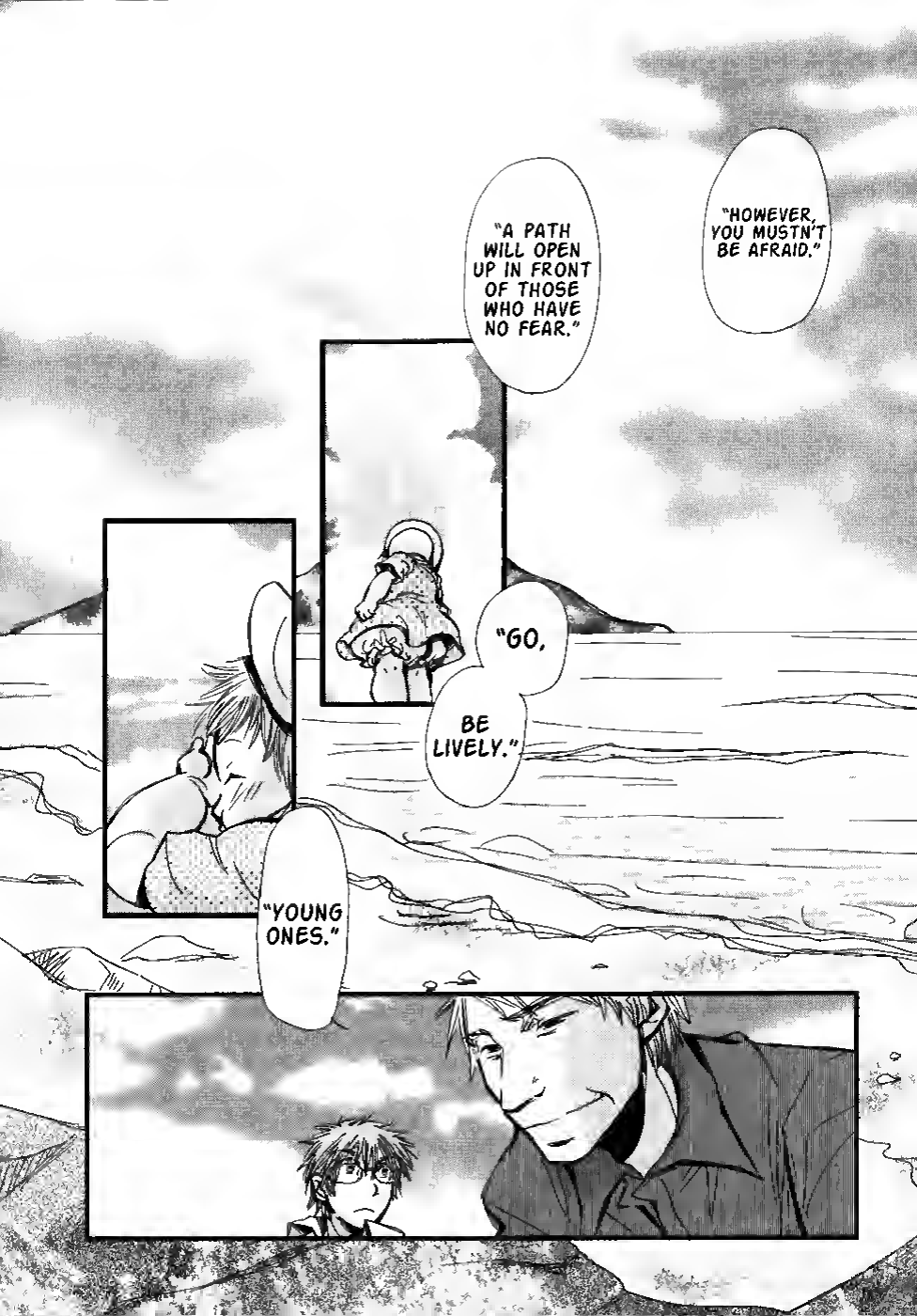
I'M SO HAPPY!
I COULDN'T WAIT FOR THE ONE MONTH CHECK UP!
AH!
TODAY I'M ALLOWED TO USED THE BATH AGAIN!
AH...
REALLY? A BATH DOES MAKE YOU FEEL MORE RELAXED.
IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE STOPPED CRYING WHEN I BATHED HER IN WARM WATER.
AH...
YES.
DID YOU RECOVER COMPLETELY?
AH...
.....
THEY SAID THAT TODAY EVERYTHING CAN GO BACK TO NORMAL.

THEY'VE GOTTEN BIGGER.
MM...
BUT IT WON'T BE FOREVER.
MM...
AH.
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS LATER.
UH-UH.
SFX: HEHE
.....
AO-CHAN IS WATCHING US.
SEE,

WHAT IF WE WERE REALLY BAO PEOPLE?
SHE'S...
SHE REALLY IS.
...HEHE.
SHE'S COMPLETELY RELAXED.
SOMEONE UNRELIABLE LIKE ME WITH HER LIFE...
SHE'S TRUSTING
.....
I SEE...
.....
IT'S BE-CAUSE SHE COULON'T SEE US...
WHEN SHE WAS INSIOE ME.

...HEY.
SEN-SEI.
HMM?
IF AO SAYS
SHE'S GETTING MARRIED AT MY AGE...
.....
ぴしっ
AH!
NO WAY!
.....
YOU'D GET DE-PRESSED?!
YOU'RE ALREADY DEPRESSED?!


"YOUNG ONES."
"WHEN YOU'RE FEELING UNHAPPY, TRAVEL THE WORLD"
"WHILST KEEPING THE BLESSING OF YOUR JOYFUL MOTHER AND FATHER IN YOUR HEART."
"THE JOURNEY AHEAD IS A LONG AND DARK ONE."


"HOWEVER, YOU MUSTN'T BE AFRAID."
"A PATH WILL OPEN UP IN FRONT OF THOSE WHO HAVE NO FEAR."
"GO, BE LIVELY."
"YOUNG ONES."

SFX HEHE
I FELT LIKE I WAS YOUR SON...
I REALLY...
Hehe
AH, SORRY.
WHAT IS IT?
UH...
THAT WAS FROM "TO THE YOUNG ONES" BY TAKEO ARISHIMA.
BLEH.
DON'T PUT THAT INSIDE YOUR MOUTH!
SPIT IT OUT.
HEY!
AO!
HEY.
AH!
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE...
YOU SHOULDN'T CRY.
ALL RIGHT, GOT IT.
WAAH!

DAD.
OF COURSE I DO!
HA...
.....
YOU'RE SAYING SILLY THINGS AGAIN!
COULD IT BE... THAT YOU STILL THINK I'M CUTE?
HMM?

CLUMSILY FINOING MY WAY,
THIS CHILD IS ME.
AND SO IS THIS PERSON.
I KEEP REMEMBERING WHAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN.
NOW THAT I'M TRYING TO UNOERSTANO THAT AO WILL OO THE SAME ONE OAY,
I WONOER IF I CAN REGAIN WHAT I'VE LOST?

IF KURUMI DISAP-PEARS,
WILL I BE ABLE TO BE A TEACHER AGAIN?
IF AO AND I DISAP-PEAR,
WILL KURUMI BE AN ORDI-NARY GIRL AGAIN?
NEI-THER OF US.
WANTED THAT.
YOU WANT TO BE HERE
WATCHING OVER AO WHILE EX-PERIENC-ING A NEW WORLD TOGETHER,
DON'T YOU?
AH.

SHALL WE GO HOME?
ICHIGO-KUN!
AO.
MOMMY!
KURUMI.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD.

LIFE WILL CONTINUE, IN THE MIDST OF A SERIES OF "INCIDENTS."

THE UNSEEN FUTURE IS FRIGHTENING.

BUT REGRET IS A THING OF THE PAST.

HOWEVER, WHEN YOU PUT YOURSELF IN THE FUTURE OF THE PAST, YOU BECOME SO BLINDED

THAT YOU CANNOT SEE THE PRESENT.

KURUMI DIDN'T GO.

EVEN IF I WERE TO DIE OR COLLAPSE SOME DAY.

SHE WOULD STILL MAKE THE EFFORT TO STAND BY HERSELF.

IS ONLY THE PRESENT, AT THIS VERY IN-STANT.

RIGHT NOW

WHAT I CAN SORT OUT

EVEN SO...
IT'S NOT AS IF I'M WALKING FORWARD
BECAUSE I'M CERTAIN ABOUT THE PROMISE THAT WAS MADE.

STEW,
MEAT AND POTATOES,
CURRY,
HAMBURGER,
Ah
IS THAT YOUR MENU?
AND
MACKEREL SOUP!
THEY SOUND GREAT!
I'M NOT CONFIDENT YET THOUGH.
SFX KYAA AHAHAHA
きゃあ
あはは
THEN HOW ABOUT GINGER...
AH, RIGHT.
I GOT A POSTCARD FROM MORITA-SENSEI THE OTHER DAY.
.....
KURUMI?
きゃあ
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SFX KYAA

SFX: KYAA
KURUMI?

"THE JOURNEY AHEAD IS
A LONG AND DARK ONE."

Thank you for reading!
Kizuki Akira & Satou Nanki

This is the first time I've had a series published by Shounen Gahosha I was instructed to make it "a family story" and I worked on it slowly and carefully

At first it was meant to be a "heart-warming family story" or something like that, but I feel as if it didn't turn out that way I'm sorry

My previous boss was a really scary person, but his kindness towards his daughter made a great impression on me, so I wondered about how he ended up like that

People have sides of themselves that they only show to their family, as well as sides of themselves that only their family don't know about

It seems there are many reasons behind it

The magazine stopped being published part of the way through this story, but we had the opportunity to draw the final chapter and complete the book with this afterword. I'm really glad.

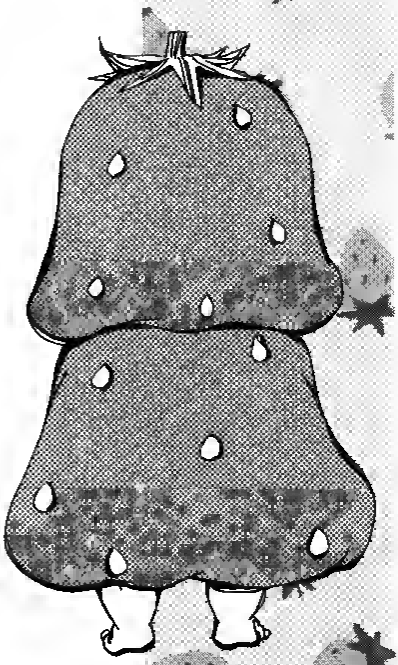
I hope we'll meet again.

Thank you very much!
Kizuki Akira & Satou Nanki

A strawberry cosplay... hmm?

But the bottom doesn't seem well made.

Uh oh!



Special Thanks

Editor. Adachi-sama

Everyone involved in
the sale of this book

The readers

My family

Thanks to all of you, this book was
able to exist. Thank you very much

I need my daily dose of manga!
I want them!
And I want them fast!
I can't believe this!
This is really depressing!
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE WE LACK THE STAFF! LEECHERS ARE FINE, BUT WE ALSO NEED HELP! BADLY!
Why are my new chapters coming out slow..?
BECAUSE...
Because...?

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